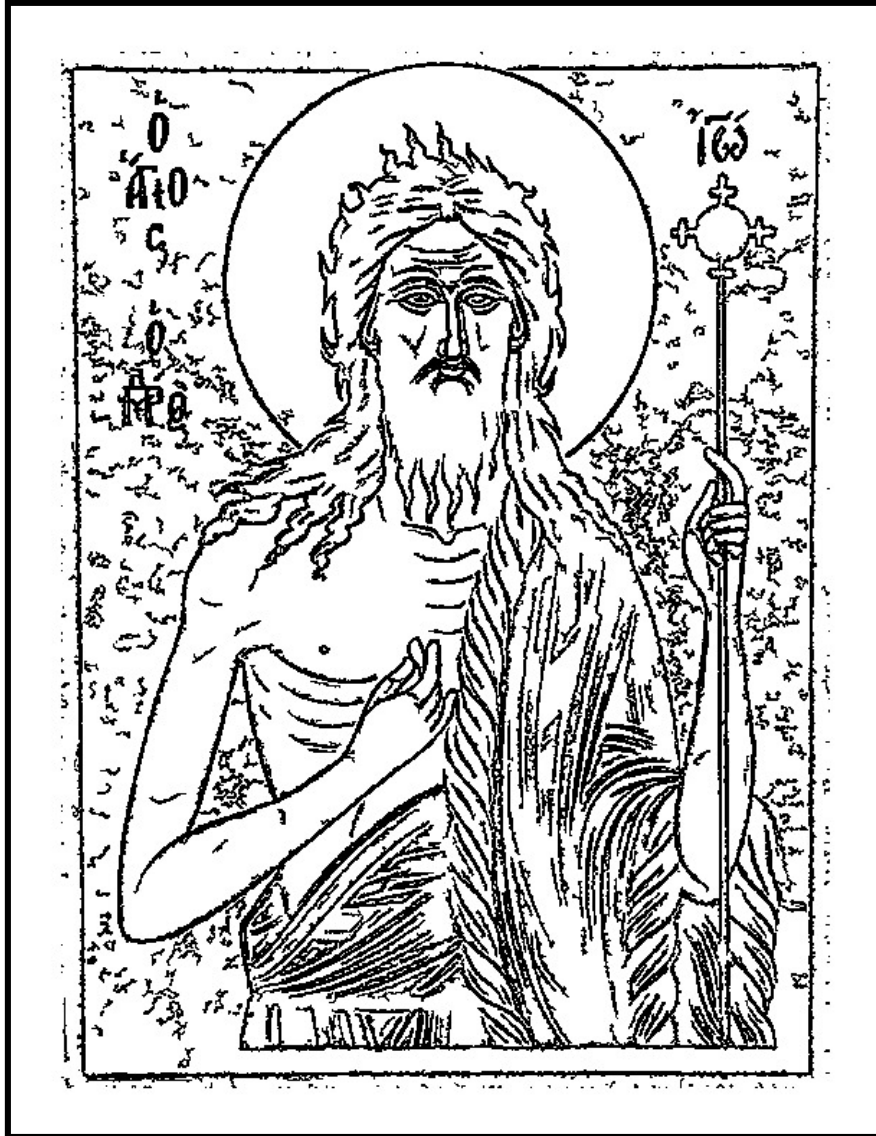


Saint John, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensward (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, January 7, 2024

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A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



The Holy Spirit gives life!

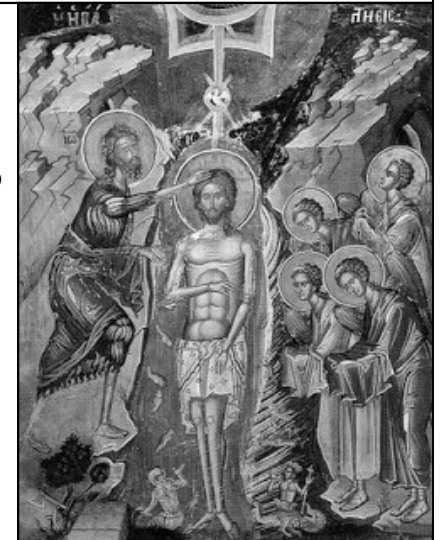
Did you ever get a toy for a present...but you didn't have batteries for it? What happened? It didn't work, did it? Your toy needed something to give it power to go, to really work.

In today's epistle reading, we find out what makes the Church *go*. We find what gives the Church strength, what gives it life. That power is the Holy Spirit!

In the reading, we hear how Saint Paul visited some followers of John the Baptist. He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they answered, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." These believers knew about baptism. They followed Saint John the Baptist. They knew about Jesus Christ. But they hadn't even heard of the Holy Spirit.

Saint Paul baptized them. Then the Holy Spirit came on them.

In our Church, we still need the Holy Spirit too. We can build a church building, but we need the Holy Spirit to give us life. We can have the Bible, but we need the Holy Spirit to use it. We can read the Creed, but we need the Holy Spirit to help us to have faith. We need the Holy Spirit to give us power to go, to really work...kind of like the batteries in your toys!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

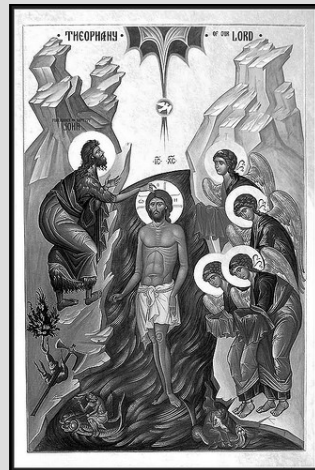
- Feastday
- Followers
- Forerunner
- Holy Spirit
- Holy Water
- John the Baptist
- Pray
- Recluse
- Saint Paul
- Silence
- Spread the Gospel
- Theophan

R P L B Z Q M N S J P B N K S
 V E R N J O L L N O X R D J P
 F B T M A O H A E H L D A K R
 C O C A P H H U E N O Y R S E
 H Z L R W P Y A D T S A E F A
 G O A L O Y D E P H I E H F D
 G Y L E O L L M X E Z C A P T
 T J H Y O W U O L B P N T N H
 S T E A S U E A H A V E C B E
 D P W E U P A R P P B L V U G
 G G G J W G I Q S T Q I C M O
 E S U L C E R R C I N S Q E S
 Z M G U T L B W I S O I Q J P
 D R J E R W J L A T S Z A K E
 W V F O R E R U N N E R N S L

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Today, we celebrate Saint John the Baptist's feastday. Can you find him in the icon?

Can you find the dove? The dove shows us the Holy Spirit was there at Jesus's baptism too. We pray that the Holy Spirit is at every baptism, don't we?

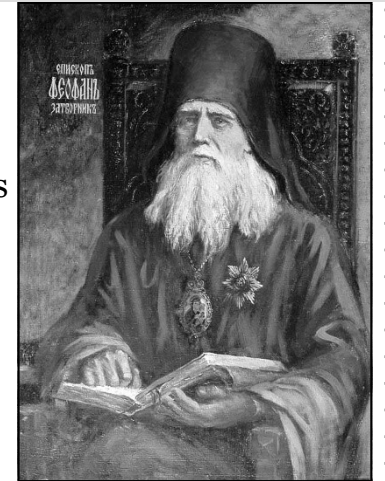


SAINT THEOPHAN

THE RECLUSE

You've heard of the scary

Brown Recluse spider, haven't you? It's a poisonous spider that likes to be left alone. Nobody likes those, but did you know recluses can be good, too? This week we'll celebrate the feastday of Saint Theophan the Recluse. He's named after Theophany, the feastday we celebrated yesterday.



St. Theophan became a recluse, but he never stopped helping people in the world!

St. Theophan was a Russian saint who spent the last 20 years of his life all by himself, not talking or visiting almost anybody!

But what did St. Theophan do when he was all by himself? Mostly, he prayed! He wrote books too, so that he could help people who needed advice. St. Theophan taught many people how to do what St. Paul told us to do. St. Paul told us to "pray without stopping." St. Theophan wrote about how we can do that!

What do YOU do when you are all by yourself? Watch TV? Play on the computer? We read about the saints so that we can be like them. Can you try to be like St. Theophan sometimes, too? When you are alone, take some time to pray, to ask God to help you, your family, your friends, and even your enemies!

We celebrate Saint Theophan on Wed., January 10th (OC: January 23rd).